

Animal Adaptations

Grade **5th** **Subject:** **Science** **Prepared By:** _____
Level: _____

Overview:

After studying ecosystems, the students will learn about the animal adaptation of camouflage.

Oregon Standard:

5.2L.1 Explain the interdependence of plants, animals, and environment, and how adaptation influences survival.

Objectives:

- 1) The students will be able to define adaptation.
- 2) The students will be able to explain the importance of adaptations for animal survival.
- 3) The students will be able to simulate the adaptation of camouflage.

Materials Needed:

- hidden picture puzzle
- pictures of camouflaged animals in their natural environments
- paper
- crayons
- scissors
- another adult
- prizes (optional)

Activities:

- 1) Give the students a hidden picture page and have them try to identify as many objects as possible in 5-10 mins.
- 2) Once time is up, use the following questions as a discussion guide:
 - How many objects did you find? Not find?
 - Were some objects more difficult to locate than others?
 - Why are the objects not easy to find?

The students should realize that the hidden objects are camouflaged within the rest of the picture, meaning they blend in with their surroundings. This makes it difficult to locate the hidden objects. Explain that hidden picture puzzles are similar to animals that use camouflage as an adaptation.
- 3) Show pictures to students of animals (foxes, cuttlefish, butterflies, lions, etc.) using camouflage in their environment.
- 4) Have the students use paper, crayons, and scissors to create an animal that will blend in with their classroom environment. For example, draw and color a lion tan. Then place the lion on the tan and brown carpet.
- 5) Invite a detective (another adult) to come into the classroom and find as many camouflaged animals as possible. If desired, award prizes to the students who do not have their animals discovered.

Assessment:

Have the students define adaptation and camouflage as their exit ticket.